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UM students, professor compete in 'Solar Bike Rayce' May 20-22

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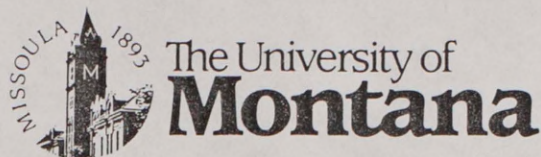
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NEWS RELEASE

May 16, 2005

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UM STUDENTS, PROFESSOR COMPETE IN 'SOLAR BIKE RAYCE' MAY 20-22

MISSOULA –

Four University of Montana students and a professor are headed to Topeka, Kan., to compete in the Solar Bike Rayce, Friday through Sunday, May 20-22.

The team consists of Jared White, Matthew Frank, Bryan von Lossberg and Brian Ferrasci-O'Malley -- all graduate students in UM's environmental studies program. Len Broberg, an associate professor in the Department of Environmental Studies, is the team leader and the bike's electrician.

The team will ride a specialized Hard Rock mountain bike. The bike was souped-up with a front wheel hub electrical motor, which is powered by two 10-watt solar panels mounted on the back of the bike, as well as by two sealed lead acid batteries.

This race marks the first for the team, which will compete in the A-class, requiring stock bike components.

"Our purpose in competing is to test solar technology in a low-cost format that any bicycle owner could adopt," Broberg said.

For more information on the Solar Bike Rayce, visit <http://www.solarbike.org>.

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